



# Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about activities, projects and events in the City of Branson

Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2011

## City Hall

110 W. Maddux  
Branson, MO 65616

417-334-3345

417-334-6095 fax

[www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov)

## Hours

8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

## Mayor

Raeanne Presley

## Board of Aldermen

Cris Bohinc

Mike Booth

Rick Davis

Patrick Parnell

Bob Simmons

Rick Todd

## City Administrator

Dean Kruithof

## Board of Aldermen meeting schedule

2nd & 4th Tuesday  
of each month

7 p.m.

Council Chambers

## Shepherd's Summer Cruise

August 13 at Midnight  
Shepherd of the Hills  
Expressway



## City gets clean audit

All the city's finances got a clean bill of health following the annual extensive audit by Cochran Head Vick and Company of Kansas City. This is the outside firm hired to conduct the audit that covered the period of January 1 to December 31, 2010. The auditors reported no illegal acts, no difficulties or disagreements with management and full access to books and records.



## City meets strict water quality standards

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has released the city of Branson's annual Water Quality Report for the 2010 calendar year, and there were no violations of water quality standards. The report is an EPA requirement of all water systems, both municipal and private. The Missouri DNR regulates all water systems and requires testing on a regular basis to ensure safety.

## No left turns at 3rd & Main

The city has installed plastic delineators at Main and Third streets downtown to allow right-in and right-out turns, but no left turns at that intersection. The police department has reported a high number of accidents at that intersection due to drivers attempting to make left turns onto and off of Third Street.



## Firefighters grill "Steaks for Kids"

At Station #2, Branson firefighters served 400 grilled rib eye sandwiches at \$8 each and raised about \$4,000 in sales and donations for the school district's Backpack Club. This group fills backpacks with food for children over the weekend who might otherwise go without when hot meals are not provided at school. The money raised by firefighters will fill 900 backpacks.

## Fall Citizens Academy starts Sep. 12

Branson residents can learn more about the workings of city government by signing up for the next Citizens Academy that begins Monday, September 12. The Academy is an eight-week session designed to provide citizens with a close up view of all facets of city government – from emergency services and health inspections to the business of water and budgeting your tax dollars. Citizens can register now by contacting Jerry Adams, public information director for the city of Branson, at 417-337-8526 or e-mail [jadams@bransonmo.gov](mailto:jadams@bransonmo.gov).

## Spring rains dampen tax receipts

Heavy spring rains over several days and some flooding along the Taneycomo lakefront along with high gas prices have contributed to a dip in sales tax revenues. The city sales tax received in June for spending activity in April was down 6.4% for the month as compared to last year. And so far in 2011, the sales tax has dropped 0.3% from 2010.

The tourism tax, also received in June for May spending activity, dropped 4.4% when compared to 2010. And for the year, the tourism tax is down 5%.



## New police chief hired

Kent Crutcher has been hired as Branson's new police chief. Crutcher has been with the Normal, IL police department for 25 years and served as that city's police chief since 2004. He fills the position left empty last month when Branson Police Chief Carroll McCullough retired. Crutcher takes over August 1.



Laura Cather (left) with Alderperson Cris Bohinc

## City Employee of the Month

**Laura Cather**, accounting specialist in the finance department, received the June Employee of the Month Award for her extra efforts associated with the licensing of city businesses this year. With minimal assistance, Laura redesigned the business license renewal form; mailed them out to all 2,600 businesses and contractors; verified that businesses were current with county and state taxes and processed most of these license applications by herself.

Also, her relationship with the public is courteous, professional and helpful. She stays calm even when irritated business people get a little outspoken and critical about the city's licensing process. Laura's job knowledge is well respected in the finance department and community.

## Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website [www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov).



## Easy recycling at city call

Branson City Hall now offers the option to recycle for all citizens when visiting city offices. These upscale recycle bins can divert more than 50% of waste into recycling.

►► Mayor Raeanne Presley bypasses the trash can at far left and goes directly for the new recycle bins placed in city hall last month.

## Planning underway for Branson's 100th

The city of Branson turns 100 years old on April 1, 2012, and area leaders have started meeting to determine how to celebrate this centennial. Ideas range from holding a different celebration every month to hosting a community show on April 1, the city's official day of incorporation. Citizens interested in getting involved with the centennial committee can contact Bethany Thomas at the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 417-334-4084 or [bthomas@bransoncvb.com](mailto:bthomas@bransoncvb.com).

## Entertainers raise \$200,000+ for Joplin

Organizers of the "Branson Cares: Joplin Benefit Concert and Telethon" say more than \$225,000 has been raised for the rebuilding efforts in Joplin, MO that was ravaged by a tornado in late May. Specifically, proceeds from the concert and telethon will go to the hospital and Joplin schools' music programs. The three-hour, live concert and telethon was staged at The Mansion Theatre June 26 and featured more than 30 Branson entertainers.

## Branson Airport adds more flights

Frontier Airlines plans to add seasonal nonstop service from Branson to Austin, TX and Phoenix, AZ starting in September. Austin flights begin September 16 and will be available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Phoenix flights begin September 17 and are available on Saturdays. Both flights will run through mid-December. For more information, go to [www.flybranson.com](http://www.flybranson.com).



## Branson Recycle Center 601 Compton Dr

### Hours

Mon- Sat 7:30 am to 1pm

Thur. 7:30 am to 6 pm

## Upcoming downtown Branson events

August 26-29  
Fiddle Festival

September 16-17  
Autumn Daze

## New business opening

Gellattes Ice Cream Shop  
Branson Landing



## Recycle center extends hours and days

The Branson Recycle Center announces its new expanded schedule that begins July 15. The center will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday. This is one hour longer than its current schedule, and it will be open Mondays offering a six day week for recycling.

The hours for Thursdays will stay the same, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to meet the recycle needs of people who work odd hours.

## Former city clerk honored

The newly remodeled and expanded city clerk's office in Branson City Hall has been dedicated to Sandra Williams who was city clerk from 1989-2005 and served as alderwoman from 2007-2011. A plaque outside the new clerk's office recognizes her municipal service.



## Tournaments attract people and dollars

The parks & recreation department hosted 11 state and regional basketball and baseball tournaments during June. These events brought over 34,000 people to Branson with an estimated economic impact of \$1.8 million. With so much to do in Branson, the city has become a popular location for amateur sporting events throughout the year.